

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated October 16, 2006, in which the Examiner (1) rejected claims 17-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0087472 ("**Walter**") or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over **Walter** in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,546,373 ("**Cerra**"), (2) rejected claims 1-2 and 4-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as anticipated by **Walter** in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,275,824 ("**O'Flaherty**") or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over **Walter** in view of **O'Flaherty** further in view of **Cerra**, (3) allowed claims 21-28 and (4) objected to claim 3, but indicated such claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By the present amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 2 and 4-10, and has rewritten claim 3 in independent form (incorporating the limitations of parent claim 1). Since the remaining claims 3 and 21-28 were indicated as allowable, all rejection are believed overcome.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

/Stephen F. Jewett/
Stephen F. Jewett
Reg. No. 27,565

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
SFJ:bhr

60950790 v1